

REMARKS

FIGURES 1C and **1D** have been corrected, the specification has been amended, claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 8, 9, and 11 have been amended.

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of claims 1-5 and 7-11 now pending in the application.

The last Office Action mailed February 17, 2004 has been carefully considered and indicates that:

- a) The drawings are objected to;
- b) The disclosure is objected to;
- c) Claims 1-11 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph*, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention;
- d) Claims 1-5 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 103(a)* as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler;
- e) Claims 2-5 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 103(a)* as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler and further in view of Powell; and

- f) Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler and further in view of Kaefer and/or Pavone and still further in view of Wright and/or Spengler *et al.*

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant submits herewith replacement sheets containing:

1. **FIGURE 1C**, changing "34" to --36-- at step 5, line 4; changing "38" to --40-- at step 6, line 5; and changing "38" to --40-- at step 6, line 8, as required by the Examiner.
2. **FIGURE 1D**, changing "10" to --12-- at step 7, as required by the Examiner.

In view of applicant submission herewith of replacement sheets of **FIGURE 1C**, changing "34" to --36-- at step 5, line 4; changing "38" to --40-- at step 6, line 5; and changing "38" to --40-- at step 6, line 8, and, **FIGURE 1D**, changing "10" to --12-- at step 7, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the objection to the drawings no longer appear to be applicable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

In view of the Examiner's objection to the disclosure, applicant has amended the specification at page 12:

1. Line 4, to change "34" to --36--, as required by the Examiner.
2. Line 12, to change "38" to --40--, as required by the Examiner.
3. Line 14, to change "38" to --40--, as required by the Examiner.
4. Line 15, to change "10" to --12--, as required by the Examiner.

In view of the amendments made *supra* to the specification at page 12, line 4, to change "34" to --36--, line 12, to change "38" to --40--, line 14, to change "38" to --40--, and line 15, to change "10" to --12--, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the objection to the disclosure no longer appear to be applicable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *second paragraph*, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, applicant has:

1. Amended claim 1, line 15, to replace “; **and**” with --, **thus**--; and line 16, to delete “**f**”, as suggested by the Examiner.
2. Amended claim 8, line 2, to change “**any other type**” to --**an**--; and line 3, to change “**any other type**” to --**the**--, as suggested by the Examiner.
3. Amended claim 11, line 3, to delete “**any other type**”, as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the amendment made *supra* to claim 1, line 15, to replace “; **and**” with --, **thus**--; and line 16, to delete “**f**”, the amendment made *supra* to claim 8, line 2, to change “**any other type**” to --**an**--; and line 3, to change “**any other type**” to --**the**--, and, the amend made *supra* to claim 11, line 3, to delete “**any other type**”, applicant respectfully submits the Examiner’s grounds for the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *second paragraph*, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention no longer appear to be applicable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

In response to the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler, the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler, the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler and further in view of Powell, and, the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler and further in view of Kaefer and/or Pavone and still further in view of Wright and/or Spengler *et al.*, applicant:

1. Greatly appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 6-11, since no art rejections were applied thereto.
2. Has cancelled allowable claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.
3. Has amended base claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled allowable claim 6.
4. Has amended claim 9 to reflect proper dependency.

In view of the allowance of claims 6-11, since no art rejections were applied thereto, the cancellation of allowable claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer, the amendment made *supra* to claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled allowable claim 6, and the amendment made *supra* to claim 9 to reflect proper dependency, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of claims

1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler, the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler, the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler and further in view of Powell, and, the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ridge in view of Frost and Butler and further in view of Kaefer and/or Pavone and still further in view of Wright and/or Spengler *et al.*, no longer appear to be applicable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections are earnestly solicited. Allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-11 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Date: _____

4/19/04

Respectfully,

By: _____

Donald Lutrario